



Kansas PTA
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HB 2420. Requiring school districts to obtain parental consent prior to providing certain school-based mental health services to a student, civil penalty for each violation.

Opponent. Remote. House Education Committee
Hearing. Thursday, January 22, 1:30 pm, Room 218-N

Michelle Sims, Committee Assistant
785-296-7388, h.Education@house.ks.gov
Room 286-N, State Capitol Building

Chair Estes and Committee Members,

As parents, we want our children to feel safe and supported at school. This bill is concerning, with the potential to establish harmful and unrealistic expectations. On behalf of the Kansas PTA, we appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony in opposition to HB 2420 regarding excessive restrictions on “any school-based program, intervention or strategy that is designed to influence a student's emotional, behavioral or social functioning.”

- **Duplicative.** Public school educators strive to partner with parents on multiple levels. Explicit approval from parents to provide “ongoing behavioral health treatment” was put into state statute in 2024. This is in addition to plans established through the 504 process and students’ Individual Educational Plans (IEPs) in which parents are explicitly involved. Parents have 24/7 portal access to their childrens’ assignments and performance with follow up at teacher conferences or by appointment. Parents are typically required to acknowledge district discipline matrices at the beginning of each school year. And more. This bill is redundant, at best.
- **Civil Penalty v Student Needs.** This bill sets up a punitive, confrontational dynamic with educational professionals, threatening civil financial penalty of \$5,000 per student encounter. What restrictions is this placing on educators every time a student emotes or is distressed?

“(a) No school district or employee or agent thereof shall initiate or provide any school-based mental health service for a student unless, prior to initiating or providing the service, the student's parent or person acting as parent: (1) Is notified both through a direct verbal communication and a written communication that provides information regarding the purpose, expected time frame and plan for the

school-based mental health service; and (2) provides written consent through a written or electronic signature to authorize the provision of the school-based mental health service.

- **Contradictory.** Use of evidence-based models for at-risk students is a shared priority among parents, educators and Kansas legislators. Yet under HB 2420 restrictions, implementation of critical supports, such as Multi-Tiered System of Supports, do not seem feasible and could not be implemented with fidelity. This bill appears to conflict with state statute regarding the seven Rose Capacities ([KSA 72-3218](#)), in which “(c) subjects and areas of instruction shall be designed by the state board of education to achieve the goal established by the legislature of providing each and every child with at least the following capacities, including: ...
 - (4) sufficient self-knowledge and knowledge of his or her mental and physical wellness; ...
 - (d) Nothing in this section shall be construed as relieving the state or school districts from other duties and requirements imposed by state or federal law including, but not limited to, at-risk programs for pupils needing intervention, programs concerning special education and related services ...”

Our public schools are the heart of Kansas communities, serving 90% of school age youth. Our teachers and administrators are committed to preparing all kids to thrive in work and in life. Creating opportunities for every child to engage and be successful serves to strengthen the viability of a thriving Kansas future.

Thank you for your consideration. I urge committee members, on behalf of the Kansas PTA, to vote no on HB 2420.

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Cc: Vikki Mullins, Kansas PTA President
Angie Gunion, VP of Advocacy
Devin Wilson, Legislative Liaison

THE PTA POSITION

Kansas PTA is a nonpartisan association that promotes the welfare of children and youth. The PTA does not endorse any candidate or political party. Rather, we advocate for policies and legislation that affect Kansas youth in alignment with our legislative platform and priorities. [PTA mission and purpose](#) have remained the same since our inception over 100 years ago, focused on facilitating every child’s potential and empowering families and communities to advocate for all children.